THINK YOU'VE BEEN READING

A to Z, Vol 2, Ch 5

Maki Hashiba

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ZAAAA
EH...?
I'VE SEEN THIS SCENE BEFORE
SO, THIS MUST BE ONE TOO
IT WAS IN THE DREAM LAST TIME
YES.
THOUGH IT WAS ONLY A GLIMPSE
JERK

A DREAM ...?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
PUFF
PUFF
NO!
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU--
ARE YOU DOING IT FOR REAL?!

HAA
HAA
STOP IT...
NO... PLEASE ...
STO... STOP...
I BEG YOU, PLEASE DON'T COME ANY CLOSER...
DON'T!

AT 4PM OF THE 24TH AN UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN PRESUMED TO BE PICKING HERBS AND VEGETABLES WAS DISCOVERED ON THE SLOPES OF THE OKUTAMA MOUNTAIN.
ONTO OUR NEXT HEADLINE
TODAY'S MORNING NEWS
BASED ON THE INVESTIGATION, THE WOMAN HAD BEEN DEAD FOR TWO DAYS.
THERE WERE MULTIPLE STAB WOUNDS TO THE CHEST
THE IDENTITY OF THE WOMAN IS NOT CLEAR, CAUSE OF DEATH IS SUSPECTED TO BE DUE TO EXCESSIVE BLOOD LOSS
WOMEN LIKE US WON'T BE ABLE TO GO OUT ANYWHERE
SO DANGEROUS
SO FRUSTRATING,

WHO'S THE WOMAN HERE?!
MY INNER SELF IS A WOMAN!
THEY'RE AT IT AGAIN.
COULD YOU TWO PLEASE JUST GET BACK TO WORK
POINTS
IN ALL YOUR 28 YEARS YOU HAVEN'T ENCOUNTERED
A SINGLE SEX MANIAC
SINCE YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A WOMAN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING TARGETED BY UNSAVORY CHARACTERS!
GOOD MORNING EVERY-ONE
TO BE DESCRIBED LIKE THAT BY A HOMO IT'S TOTALLY SHATTERED MY SELF-RESPECT
I WON'T ACCEPT THAT
IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN REALITY
IS THAT POSSIBLE?
THE TV! THE TV! QUICK! TURN THE TV OFF!
AH, TOMO-CHAN!
OH, HIS GUARD DOG'S WITH HIM.
WHY?
YOU'RE REALLY STUPID!

GOOD MORN-ING,
BLIP
THE POLICE TOWARDS THE MURDER
HI!
HEY!
YABE,
AH, BUT THAT'S NOT SPECIAL TREATMENT.
NO NEED FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR ME
YOU'RE SO CUTE TODAY!
PRETENDING NOT TO KNOW
THERE'S ANOTHER MURDER CASE?
THERE ARE SO MANY, IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S A NEW ONE EVERYDAY!
SCARY ATMOSPHERE
YABE, WAIT, LET ME
AND HERE I WAS DOING MY BEST TO CHANGE THE TOPIC!
YOU STUPID JERK!
YOU STUPID JERK!

I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN FOR MY CASE BUT,
PLEASE DON'T TREAT IT AS A SPECIAL CASE, TREAT IT AS A NORMAL CASE
YABE, IT'D BE STRANGE IF THERE WASN'T A MURDER CASE HAPPENING EVERYDAY
OH YEAH.
WHAT HAPPENED TO TOMOYA'S CASE?
ARE THERE ANY LEADS FROM THE POLICE?
...THOUGH THEY HAVEN'T CAUGHT THE MURDERER
A DIRECT HIT
TOMOYA, BASED ON YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY, COULDN'T YOU DESCRIBE THE MURDERER IN GREAT DETAIL?
ARE LIKE THAT.
YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY...
HE'S TOO IMPRESSIVE!
WAHHH, THIS NEWBIE...
SINCE YOU SAW THE MURDERER'S FACE, THE POLICE WOULD BE ABLE TO DRAW A COMPOSITE LIKENESS, RIGHT?

I COULDN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER THE MURDERER'S FACE NOR PHYSIQUE
NO
EH?
I COULDN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER WHAT
THE MURDERER LOOKED LIKE
AFTER THAT, IT'D BEEN SO LONG
I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED THE DAY, BUT

AND EVEN MORE SHOCKING WAS THAT
MY PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY W'S COMPLETELY USELESS THEN.
THEN I SLOWLY STARTED TO REMEMBER THE MURDERER'S FACE AFTER I TURNED 13
JUST LIKE A JIGSAW PUZZLE SLOWLY FALLING INTO PLACE
BUT BY THEN, THE CASE WAS ALREADY 7 YEARS OLD
THE POLICE WERE RELUCTANT TO BELIEVE THE WORDS OF A KID.
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE,
A KID'S WORDS AND MEMORIES ARE BOUND TO CHANGE
BUT EVER SINCE MY MEMORIES CAME BACK,
NOT A DAY PASSES .
WITHOUT ME REMEMBERING THAT PERSON'S FACE

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN FORGET HIS FACE...
I'LL HELP YOU.

KIRYUU, LET'S GO
HURRY UP AND CONTINUE OUR INVESTIGATION OF TAKASHIRO MIYU'S CASE!
BIPP!
DURING WORK HOURS, WE HAVE TO CONCENTRATE AND GIVE OUR BEST.
BREAK'S OVER, BACK TO WORK!
OK
WHAT?
HEY...
OF PERSON WAS THAT MURDERER...
WHAT KIND,
KIRYUU IS NOT THE SAME...
I REALLY WOULD LOVE TO SEE WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE...

DISCOVERS THAT HIS FACE IS THE SAME AS THAT MAN'S..
BUT WHEN HE...
"KIRYUU IS NOT THE SAME PERSON."
HE'LL SURELY THINK
KIRYUU IS..
"WHY WOULD HE LET A PERSON WHO LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE MURDERER STAY BY HIS SIDE?"
"WHAT IS. "
"TOMOYA PLANNING?"
I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THAT KIND OF REASONING.
IF I TELL HIM, "YOU HAVE NO RELATION WHATSOEVER WITH THAT MURDERER."

WHEN THAT TIME COMES, KIRYUU JUST MAY LEAVE MY SIDE...
HI EVERY-ONE.
HI THERE.
OH, IT'S TOMO-CHAN.
HI.
YOU'RE TEXT-ING?
SHE'S USING THAT MOBILE PHONE WE INVESTI-GATED.
YUP, A FRIEND.
YOUR BOY-FRIEND?

I'VE PLANNED WITH FRIENDS TO GO TO THE CLUB AFTER WORK.
IT'S NOT,
STOP TEASING ME.
TAKASHIRO MIYUKI
AND QUICKLY WRAP UP THIS CASE.
OH RIGHT, IT'S TIME TO WORK
OK, LET'S GO TO OUR STATION.
PAT
AFTER DATING FOR A YEAR AND A HALF SHE DUMPED ME.
YUP, SHE DOESN'T LIKE MY GENTLENESS,
YOU GOT DUMPED?
TOMO-CHAN, YOU'RE SO HANDSOME, YOU MUST—
HAVE A LOT OF GIRLFRIENDS, RIGHT?
HAHA, NOT SO
2 OR 3 AT THE SAME TIME
BE STRONG! OK?
SHE MUST BE BLIND
IS THAT TRUE?
SIGH!
I JUST GOT DUMPED ACTUALLY.
LIAR!

HIGH SCHOOL HUH...
SO AM I
HA HA HA!
GOT COMFORTED BY A HIGH SCHOOL GIR...
IN TOMO'S EYES, I'M JUST A...
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT
JUST KEPT TREATING ME LIKE A KID
AND HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING
I'D HELP HIM...
I ALREADY TOLD HIM...
"SINCE I'VE ALWAYS WORKED ALONE."
"IT'S OK IF I DO THIS MYSELF,"
"DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD."
"HOWEVER YOU SAY IT, YOU'RE STILL JUST A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT."

I'M NOT
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO DOWN?
LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT, YOU OWE ME BIG TIME FOR THIS
I KNOW. I KNOW
GOES TO SHOW THAT HE REALLY DOESN'T NEED ME
KNOCK
I'M HERE, YUUKI
EXCEPT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING
WHA
REALLY?!
I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU, I PROMISE
HEY, YOU TWO
CHE ...
WHATEVER!
WE HADN'T EVEN BEEN INTIMATE YET. AND HE ALREADY DUMPED ME
SUCH PRECIOUS VACATION TIME,
AND I'M SPENDING IT WITH THE GUY WHO DUMPED ME
IT'S REALLY HER!
LIAR!
WHY COME TO OUR CLUB?
THE GUY WITH HER IS REALLY HANDSOME TOO.
IT'S TRUE! IT'S TRUE!
IS IT TRUE?
WAH!
CHATTER

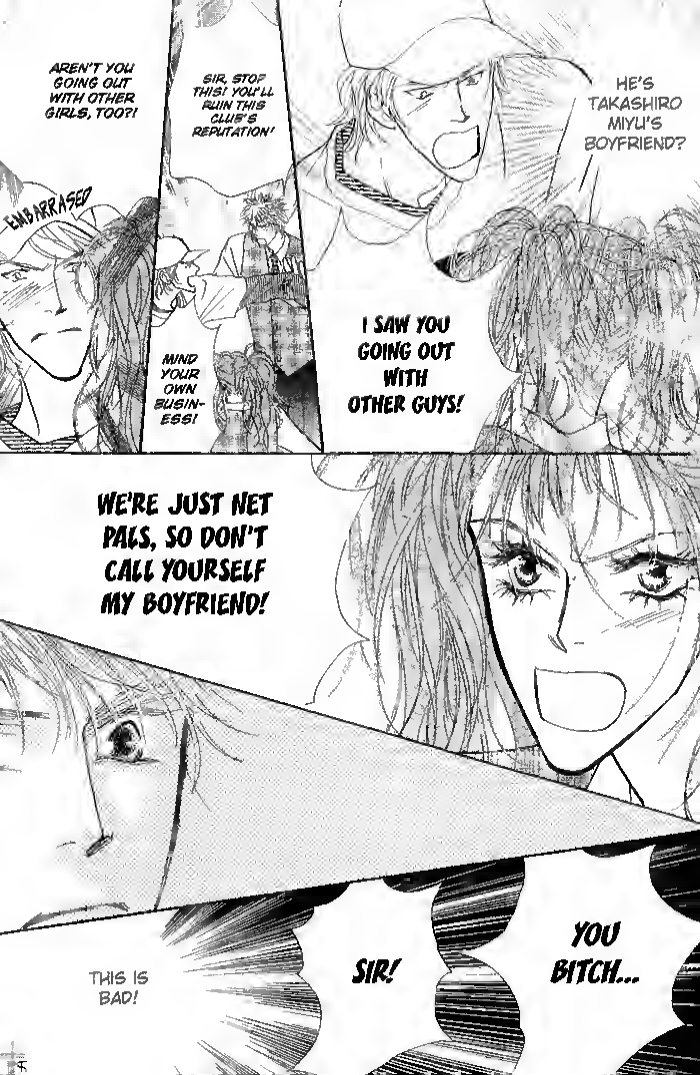
HI. .
CAN THIS PLACE ACCOMODATE LONGER SESSIONS?
3 PEOPLE,
BOOK US FOR AN HOUR
GEE! WHY IS SHE HERE?!
KYAAA
THAT'S JINNAGAWA MIO!
THE IDOL!
SHE EVEN HAS HER MANAGER WITH HER!
THE GUY MUST BE AN IDOL TOO, RIGHT?
WHO IS HE? HE'S SO HAND-SOME!

I'M GOING TO TAKE A LOOK!
JUST A PEEK
ME TOO!
WE MIGHT GET TO HEAR HER SING!
ARTISTS REALLY DO CREATE A BIG DIVERSION.
I TOLD HIM TO CRE ITE A DIVERSION
NEVER THOUGHT HE'D BRING HER INSTEAD
THEY'RE STILL IN CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER?
THE ONE THAT CAME WITH KIRYUU IS
JINNAGAWA MIO?
YOU GO TOO, MYU!
DESTRUCT
EH?
I'LL STAY HERE
PERSON-ALITIES VERY SELDOMLY COME INTO OUR CLUB,
SO DON'T WASTE THIS CHANCE
WHAT ABOUT YOU, TOMO-CHAN?
ME?
NOPE, CAUSE I LIKE CHISATO, BETTER
SMT!

JUST FIVE MINUTES IS ENOUGH.
LET'S TAKE A LOOK!
RUN
RUN
WHAT ARE YOU COUGHING FOR, YUUKI?
I ALREADY SELECTED THE SONGS.
COUGH COUGH
THAT OMOYA...
EAR-PIECE
WAS ALMOST KILLED BY A MAD CHISATO BECAUSE OF HER JEALOUSY...
ITEMS IN THE LOCKERS SHOULD BE NEAT AND CLEAN.
HE CAN BACK OUT AT ANY TIME, SO
I SHOULDN'T EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM HIM.
OPEN
HE WON'T MANAGE IT FOR LONG
HE'S ONLY A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT
WORKING PART TIME AND HAVING A GIRLFRIEND, EVEN IF HE'S IN EXCELLENT HEALTH
"I'LL HELP YOU."

HE'LL LEAVE FOR SURE.
LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE CALL LIST
AS SOON AS HE DISCOVERS THE TRUTH...
EH...?
....!
WAHH!!
THIS IS...

BANG
WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT THERE?
TAKASHIRO MIYU'S VOICE!
THAT'S ...
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
YOU JERK! LET GO OF ME!
STOP SHOUTING!
I TOLD YOU TO LET GO OF MY HAND!
LET GO OF ME!
WHY DID YOU COME HERE?!


HE'S TAKASHIRO MIYU'S BOYFRIEND?
I SAW YOU GOING OUT WITH OTHER GUYS!
AREN'T YOU GOING OUT WITH OTHER GIRLS, TOO?!
SIR, STOP THIS! YOU'LL RUIN THIS CLUB'S REPUTATION!
EMBARRASED
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
WE'RE JUST NET PALS, SO DON'T CALL YOURSELF MY BOYFRIEND!
THIS IS BAD!
SIR!
YOU BITCH...

WHACK
DAMN IT...!
KIRYUU
...
IS STILL WEARING THAT LISTENING DEVICE!
OH NO!
KIRYUU
...

DON'T COME OUT HERE!
FOR THEM TO FIND OUT NOW...
YOU STUPID JERK!
DAMN IT...

SFX: WHAM!
SFX: SLAM
KYAAA

HOW DARE YOU!
SIR!
HIT TOMOYA!

PLEASE DON'T FIGHT INSIDE THE CLUB!!
TOMOYA...

CHE!
SHIT ...!
I ...

WHO IS THAT GUY?
SO SCARY...
THE GUY WITH JINNOSUKE AND IS SO BRAVE.
NO! PLEASE DON'T DO THAT!
MIYU, DO YOU WANT TO CALL THE POLICE?
CHATTER
CHATTER
I SWEAR THERE WON'T BE A SECOND TIME!
UH.. MANAGER, I'M SORRY FOR BRINGING TROUBLE TO THE CLUB!
I'M SO SORRY TOMO-CHAN!
NO BIG DEAL
IT'S OK
YOU GOT HURT BECAUSE OF ME...
AH.
IT'S OK
I THINK, I HAVE TO BE GOING NOW.
AND TO YOU SIR, PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

PLEASE WAIT, SIR...!
I...
THANK YOU

I FORGOT THAT I WAS UNDERCOVER.
SHIT...
THAT WE'RE BOTH UNDERCOVER.
BUT WHEN I SAW TOMOYA GET HIT,
I COULDN'T STOP MYSELF...
NOW, HE'LL REALLY THINK I'M IMMATURE, AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.

I'M SO GLAD HE HELPED OUT
THAT HOT CUSTOMER IS THE ONE WHO CAME IN WITH JINNAGAWA MIO, RIGHT?
Ha Ha
YOU'RE SO MEAN
(YOU DON'T SEEM GOOD AT FIGHTING
OR ELSE TOMO-CHAN'S CUTE FACE WOULD'VE BEEN BEATEN ALL OVER THE PLACE
EH, REALLY?
CHATTER
CHATTER
IT'LL PROBABLY BE SWOLLEN BY TOMORROW.
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU TAKE ME HOME,
WHERE YOU GOT HIT
BEEP
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH
EH?
FOR PROTECTING ME
THANK YOU
BUT REALLY

WHY AM I ALWAYS FACING THESE?
WHY DID IT TURN OUT LIKE THIS?
SHE SAID BEFORE IT WAS JUST NET PALS
DID SHE MISLEAD HIM?
HE'S YOUR BOYFRIEND?
I'M NOT DATING HIM
I'M VERY AFRAID OF BEING ALONE.
IN HER MOBILE HISTORY
TO BE TRUTHFUL,
THE FIRST FEW MESSAGES ALL SEEM
TO BE FROM GUYS ON THE INTERNET

AS LONG AS I DON'T HAVE TO BE ALONE
ANYTHING IS OKAY
THAT'S WHY, I ALWAYS GO TO MEET OTHER PEOPLE
HER MOTHER ONCE TOOK THE YOUNGER SON AND LEFT HOME,
LEAVING THE 5 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER BEHIND WITH HER FATHER AND HER FATHER'S LOVER.
"I ABANDONED MY DAUGHTER ONCE"
NO MATTER WHO IT IS
EVEN THOUGH I MEET UNREASONABLE GUYS
I DON'T CARE

IT'S MUCH BETTER THAN BEING ALONE.
...AS LONG AS WE'RE NOT ALONE...
I WAS LEFT BEHIND ALONE IN THE DARKNESS...
FROM THAT TIME ONWARDS,

BY MYSELF...
CARRYING LONELINESS AND FEAR...
IN AN UNEASINESS. WITH NO WAY OUT.
"I'M AFRAID TO BE ALONE."
SO SCARED TO EVEN HOLD TIGHTLY ONTO "UNREAL" THINGS...

RUSTLE
CHIRP
BIRDS...?
CHIRP
AH...
THAT 'UNREAL' THING...
YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES ARE DIFFERENT...?
"I'LL HELP YOU."

IT'S ALL
IN YOUR
MIND
ISN'T IT?
AAAA
100

WHAT'S THAT...!!
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH TOMOYA ...?
TOMOYA!
MIYU!
GASP

MOM
...
I CAME TO GET YOU I WAS SO WORRIED
...AH ...
I RECEIVED A CALL FROM YOUR BOSS
SHE'S TAKASHIRO MIYU'S MOTHER ...
AND OUR CLIENT
STUPID BOSS! HE SHOULD MIND HIS OWN BUSINESS!
GRRR
I HAVE TO GET MY ACT TOGETHER
I CAN'T JUST STAND HERE AND DO NOTHING
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!

BE STRONG! STAND FIRMLY!
I CAN'T GO OUT AND HELP
DAMN IT WHY DOES IT HAVE TO HAPPEN NOW?
YOU STUPID OLD HAG!
YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ME! I'M LEAVING!
MIYU, I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE FOR YOU TO FEEL THIS WAY!

MIYU!
GLANCE
MY HOME IS NEARBY, SO I'LL BE GOING... GOODBYE
THANK YOU!
Huh...
MIYU!
WAIT!
...GOOD THING...
DIZZY
GOOD
THE CLIENT DIDN'T DIVULGE MY REAL IDENTITY IN FRONT OF TAKASHIRO MIYU...
EH...
FALL

TOMOYA!
ZAAA
THE SOUND OF THE WIND
...
IS IT THE SAME AS EARLIER?
AH ...
OH YEAH, EARLIER ...
THE FIRST THING I SAW WHEN I OPENED MY EYES...

TOMOYA
...ITS
EH ...?
KIRYUU ...
DO YOU REMEMBER? YOU SUDDENLY FAINTED.

GYUUU
KIRIYUU?
I—
I'M SORRY ABOUT ALOT OF THINGS
SORRY, TOMOYA

BUT
WHENEVER YOU NEED ME YOU'LL ALWAYS BE MY PRIORITY AND NOT MY JOB
IT'LL ALWAYS BE THAT WAY
EVEN IF,
YOU CALL ME A HIGH SCHOOL WORKING STUDENT
IT'S OK EVEN IF YOU GET DISAPPOINTED IN ME.
...KIRYUU
EVEN IF YOU HATE ME

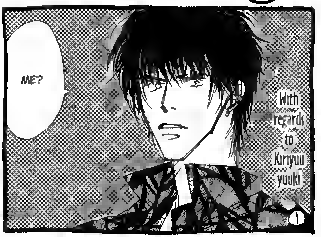
I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOUR SIDE. I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE TO HELP YOU.
HE MAY JUST LEAVE MY SIDE BUT...
BUT AS SOON AS HE DISCOVERS THAT HIS FACE IS THE SAME AS THAT MAN'S
EVEN IF THAT HAPPENS

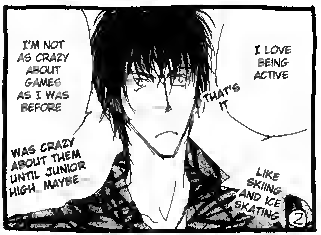
I'LL BE SATISFIED AS LONG AS I HAVE THIS.
TOMOYA?
KIRYUU.
EVEN IF EVERYTHING'S UNREAL,
EVEN IF IT'S ALL JUST FUTURELESS PROMISES.
THANK YOU. THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME BACK THERE.
AS LONG AS HE'S RIGHT HERE BESIDE ME, FOR RIGHT NOW.

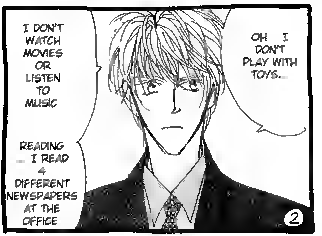
I'M
ACTUALLY
VERY
HAPPY.

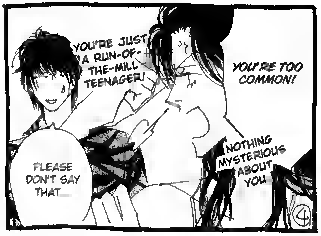
AtoY④

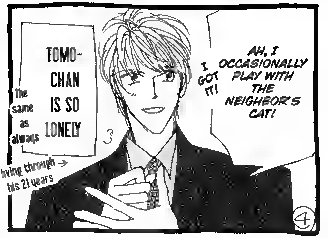
TOPIC: MY HOBBIES




I'M NOT AS CRAZY ABOUT GAMES AS I WAS BEFORE
I WAS CRAZY ABOUT THEM UNTIL JUNIOR HIGH. MAYBE...
THAT'S IT
I LOVE BEING ACTIVE
LIKE SKIING AND ICE SKATING
②






TOMO-CHAN IS SO LONELY
The same as always
living through → this 21 years
I GOT IT!
AH, I OCCASIONALLY PLAY WITH THE NEIGHBOR'S CAT!
④

♦ AtoY④／END ♦